US007383658B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Reichert et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 7,383,658 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jun. 10, 2008**

(54) **FISHING ROD AND REEL PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

(76) Inventors: **Michael T. Reichert**, 4139 W. Surrey Ave., Phoenix, AZ (US) 85029; **John R. Pimsner**, 139 W. Surrey Ave., Phoenix, AZ (US) 85029

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/330,981**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 11, 2006**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/643,216, filed on Jan. 11, 2005.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01K 97/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **43/26**; 43/26

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 43/26, 43/21.2, 54.1; 206/315.11, 315.1, 315.2; 220/324; 224/922
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,149,087	A		2/1939	Fisher	
2,591,674	A		4/1952	Chalker	
2,902,790	A		9/1959	Harvey	
3,349,512	A	*	10/1967	Walker	43/26
3,674,190	A		7/1972	Wright	
4,946,034	A	*	8/1990	Matsubara	206/315.11
4,967,504	A		11/1990	Craft	
5,046,279	A		9/1991	Smith et al.	
D321,281	S	*	11/1991	Cooper	D3/260
5,341,590	A	*	8/1994	Hepworth et al.	43/26
5,446,989	A		9/1995	Stange et al.	
5,937,568	A		8/1999	Morgan	
5,956,885	A		9/1999	Zirbes	
5,960,950	A		10/1999	Meeker et al.	
D458,747	S		6/2002	Hields et al.	
6,408,564	B1		6/2002	Murphy	
6,668,481	B2	*	12/2003	Garcia	43/26
6,760,994	B2		7/2004	Henault et al.	
2002/0002791	A1	*	1/2002	Thompson	43/21.2

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

GB	1604273	*	12/1981
GB	2224916	A *	5/1990

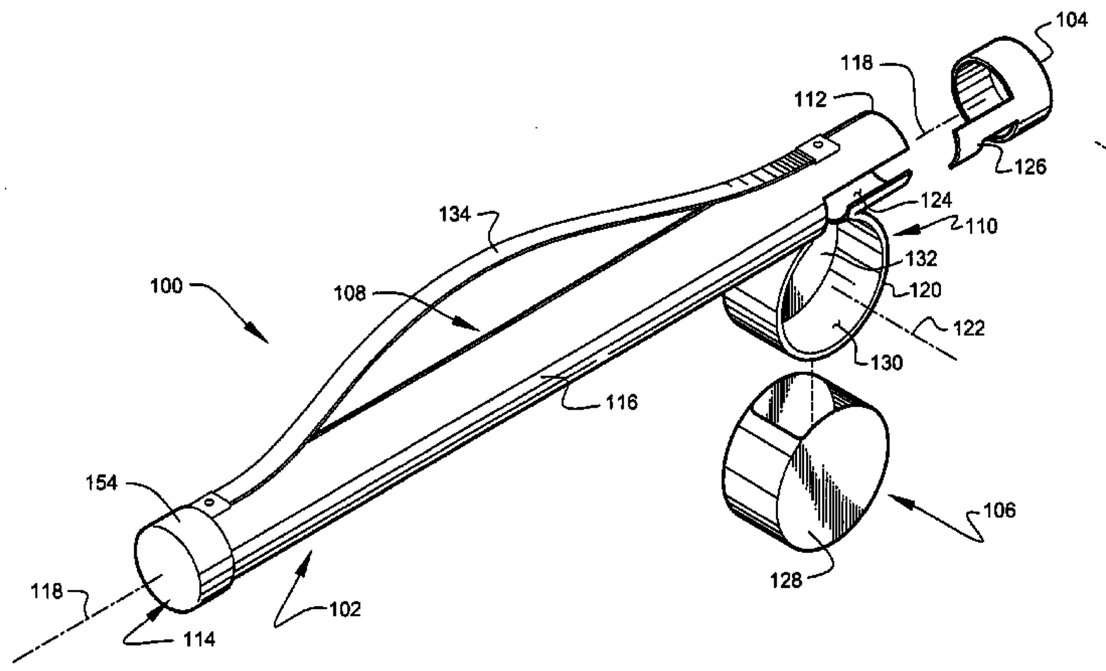
* cited by examiner

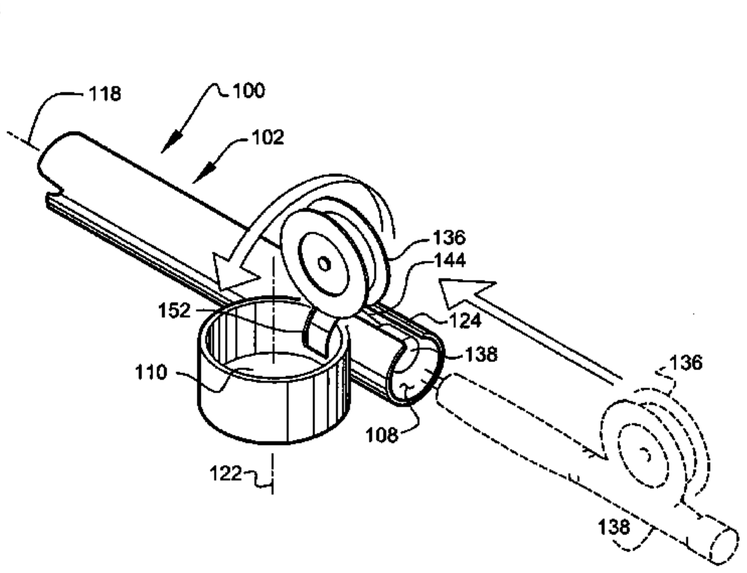
Primary Examiner—Teri Pham Luu
Assistant Examiner—Joshua Michener
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Stoneman Volk Patent Group; Martin L. Stoneman; Michael D. Volk, Jr.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A housing system related to the protective housing of a fishing rod and reel, particularly, a fly-fishing rod and reel, during transport. The system comprises a two-part housing adapted to separately compartmentalize the fishing rod and attached fishing reel. A specialized access slot allows easy installation into, and removal from, the housing. The specialized access slot also functions to fixably suspend the fishing reel in the housing interior, thus providing improved protection against damage during transport. A method of manufacture and sale is also disclosed.

10 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





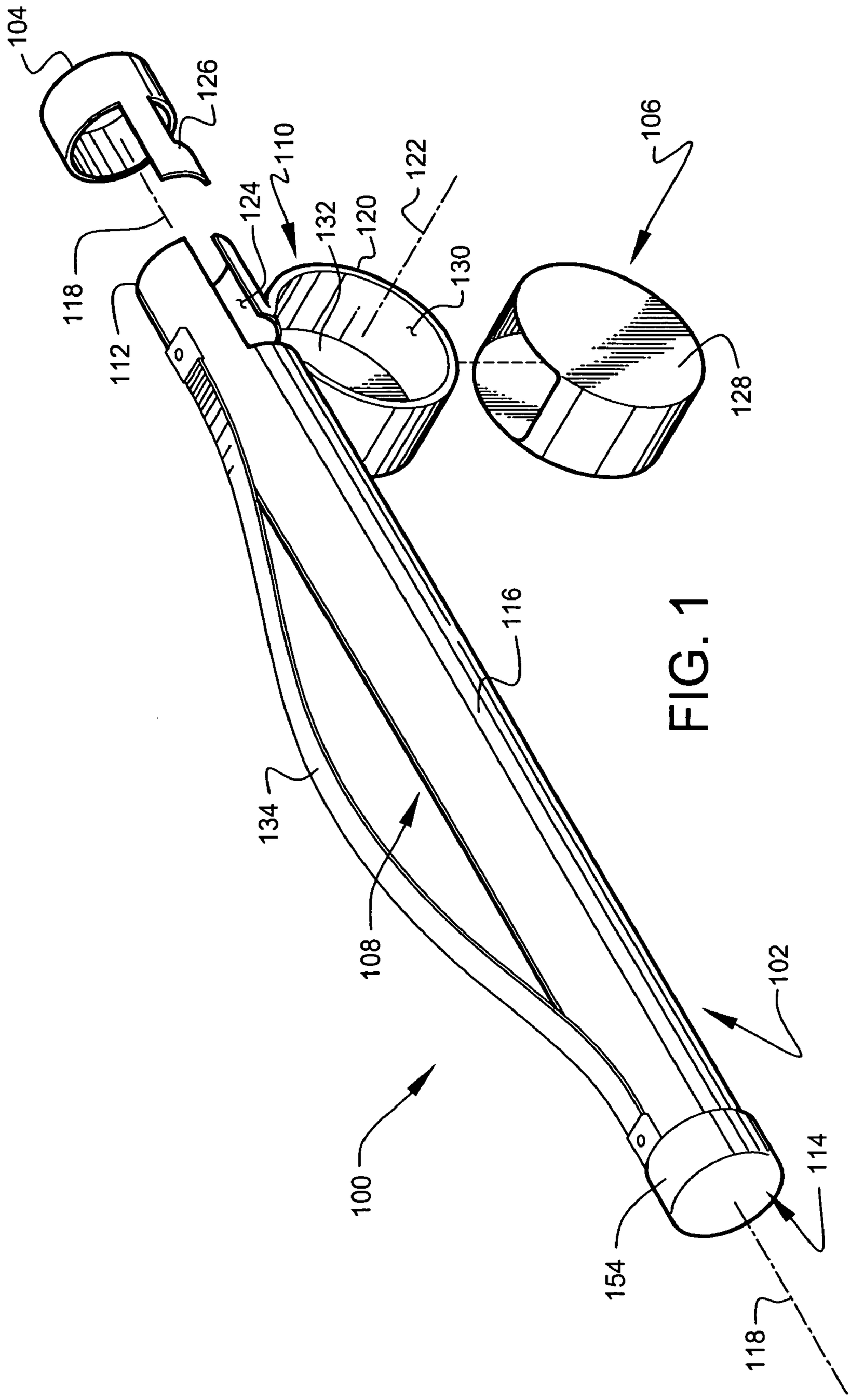

104
126
110
124
132
120
122
106
118
130
112
116
134
108
128
102
100
114
154
118

FIG. 1

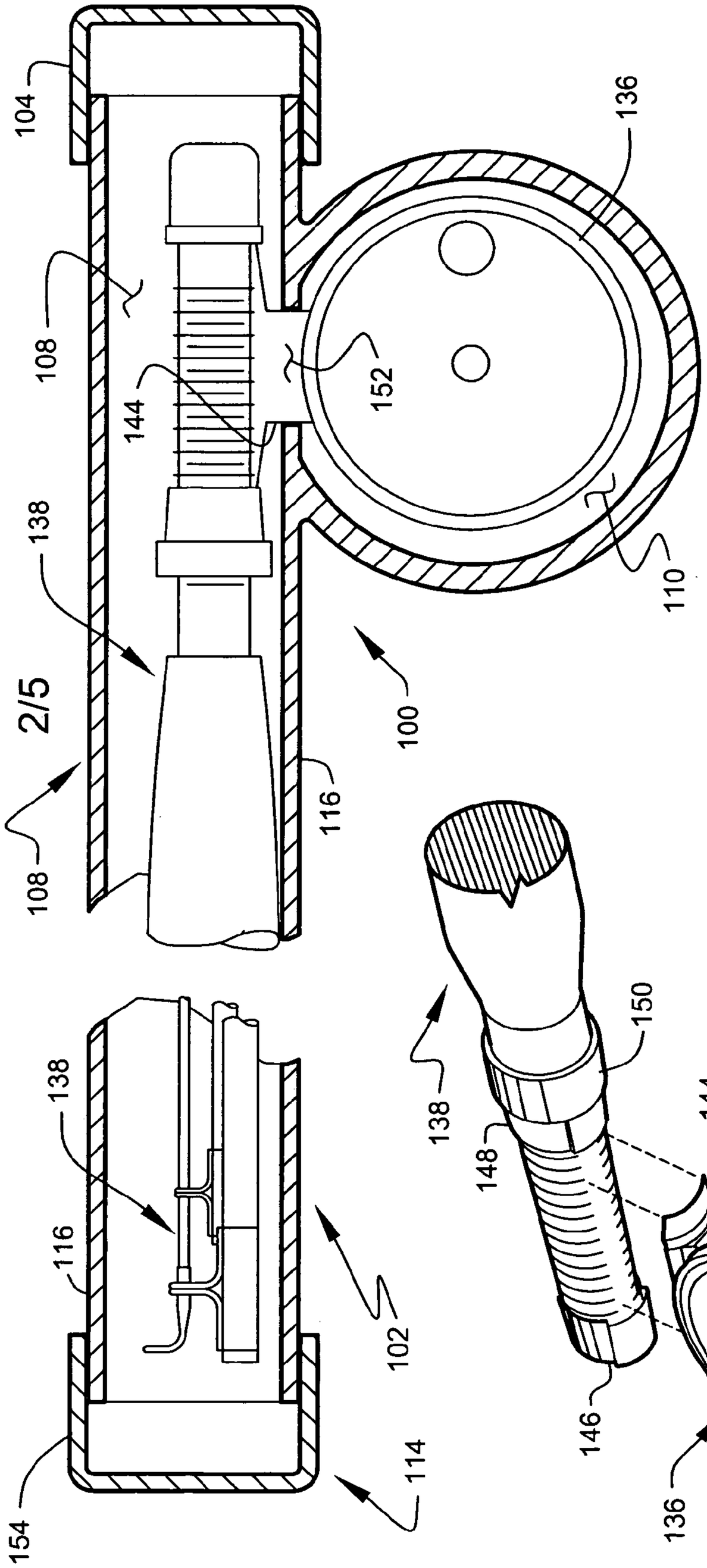


FIG. 3

FIG. 2

FIG. 4

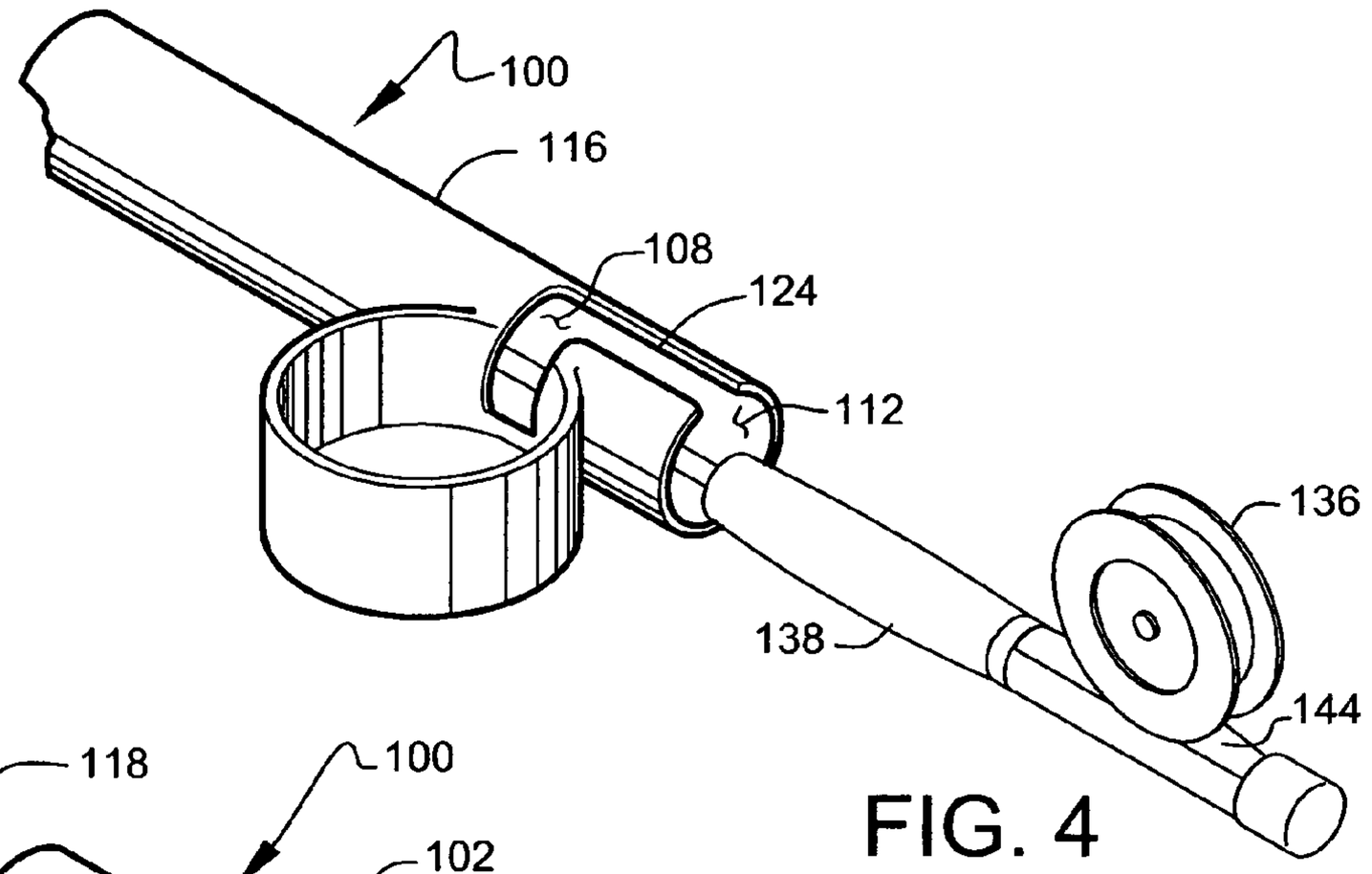


FIG. 4

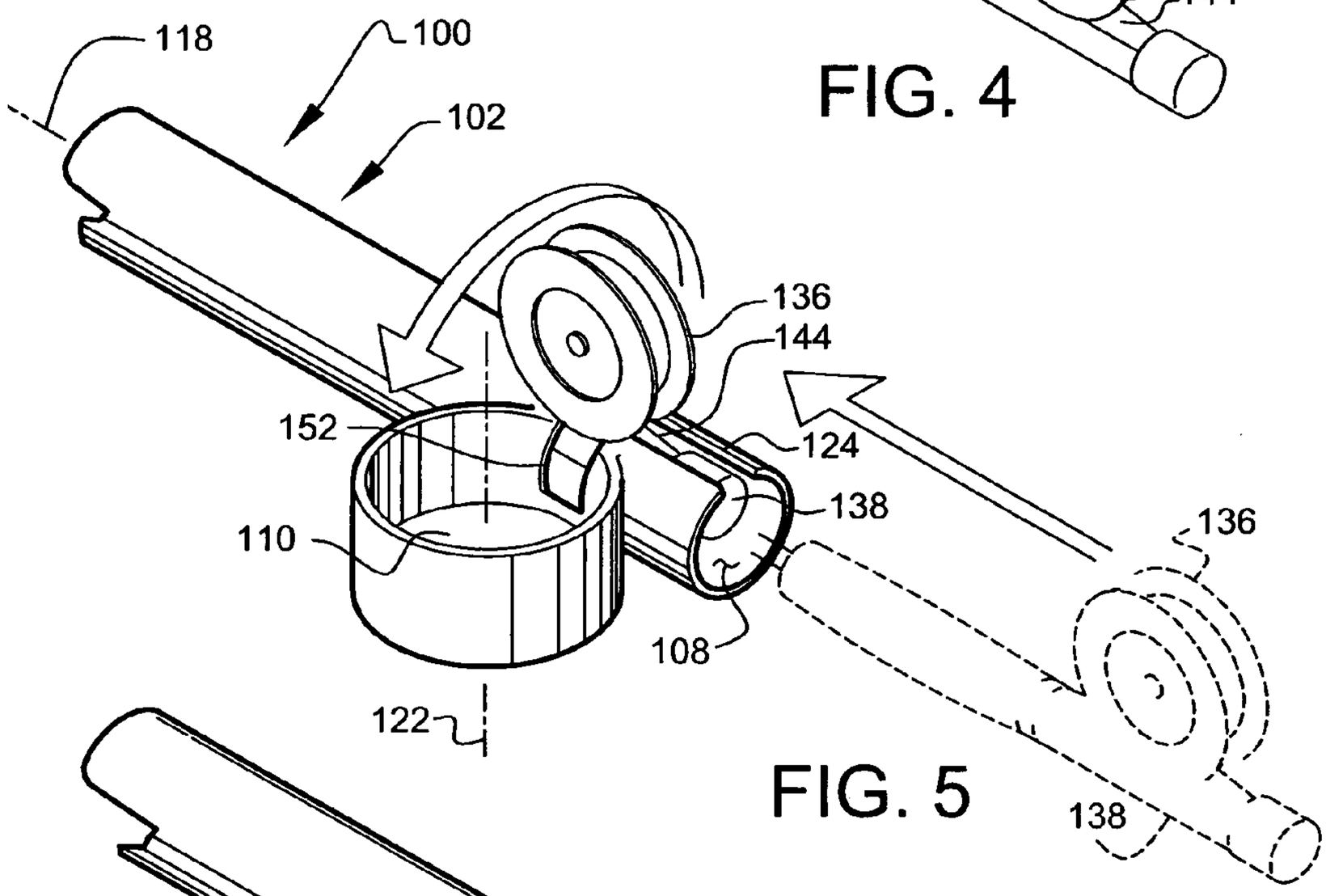


FIG. 5

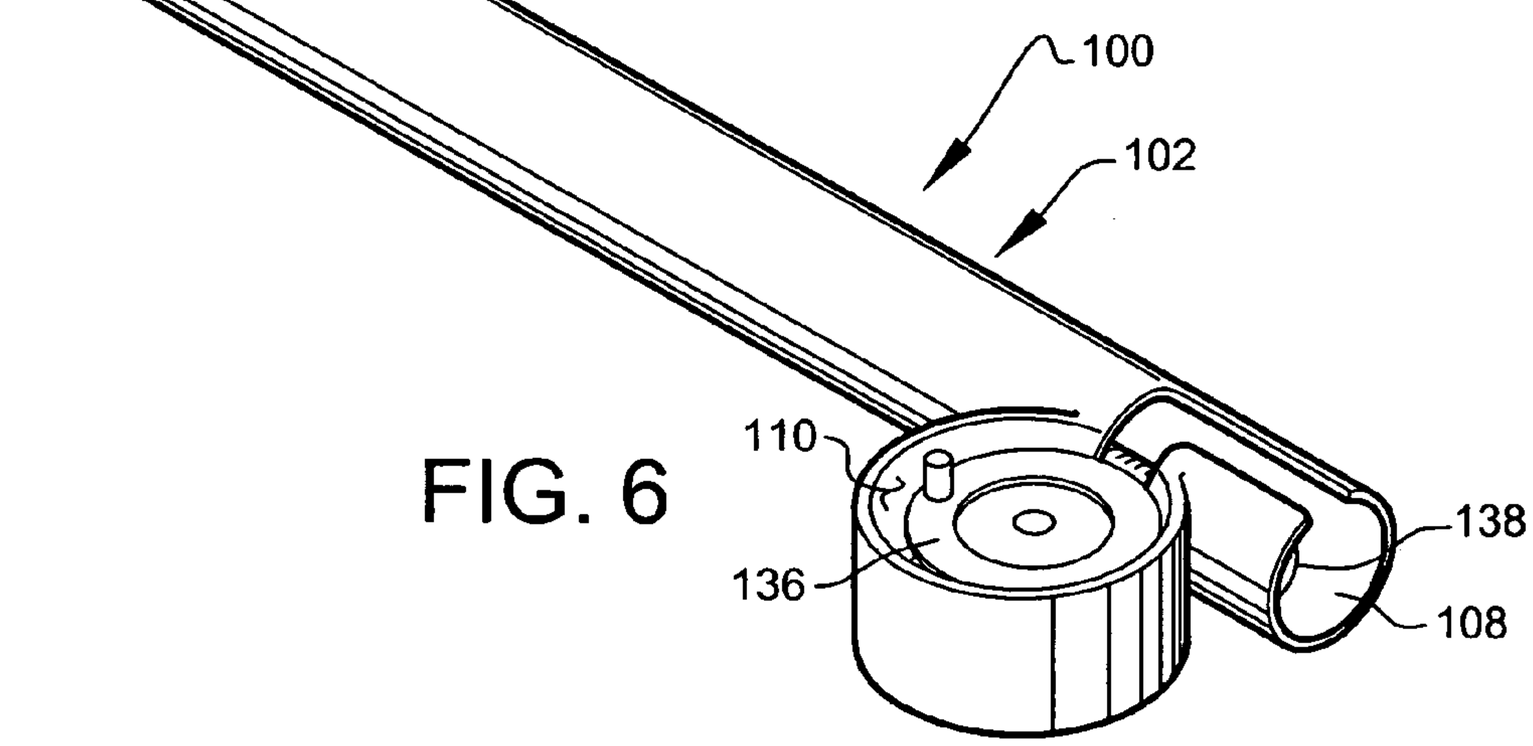


FIG. 6

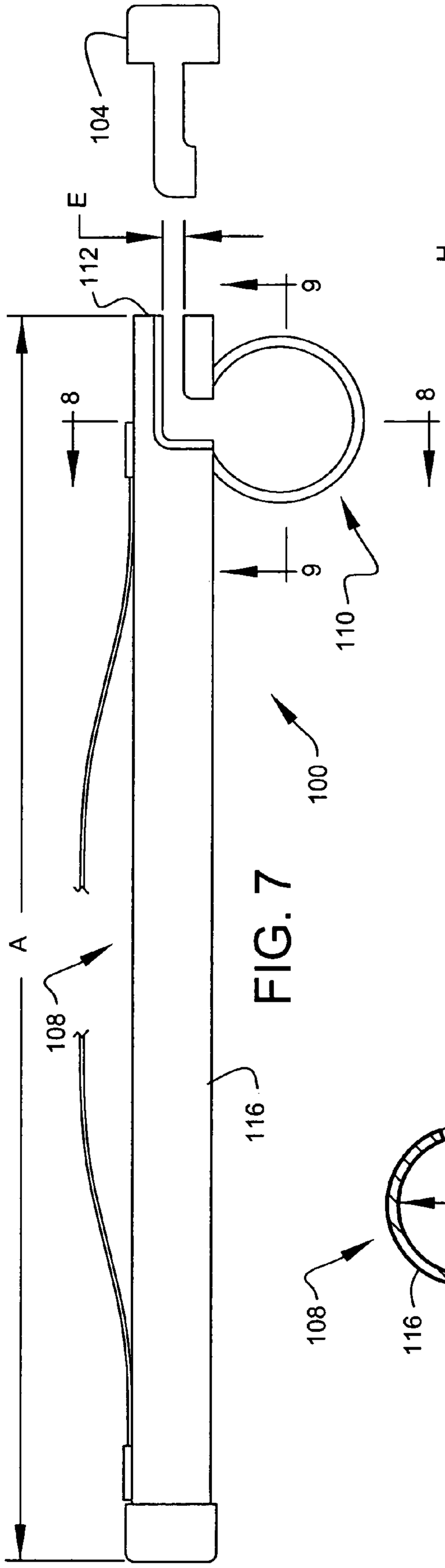


FIG. 7

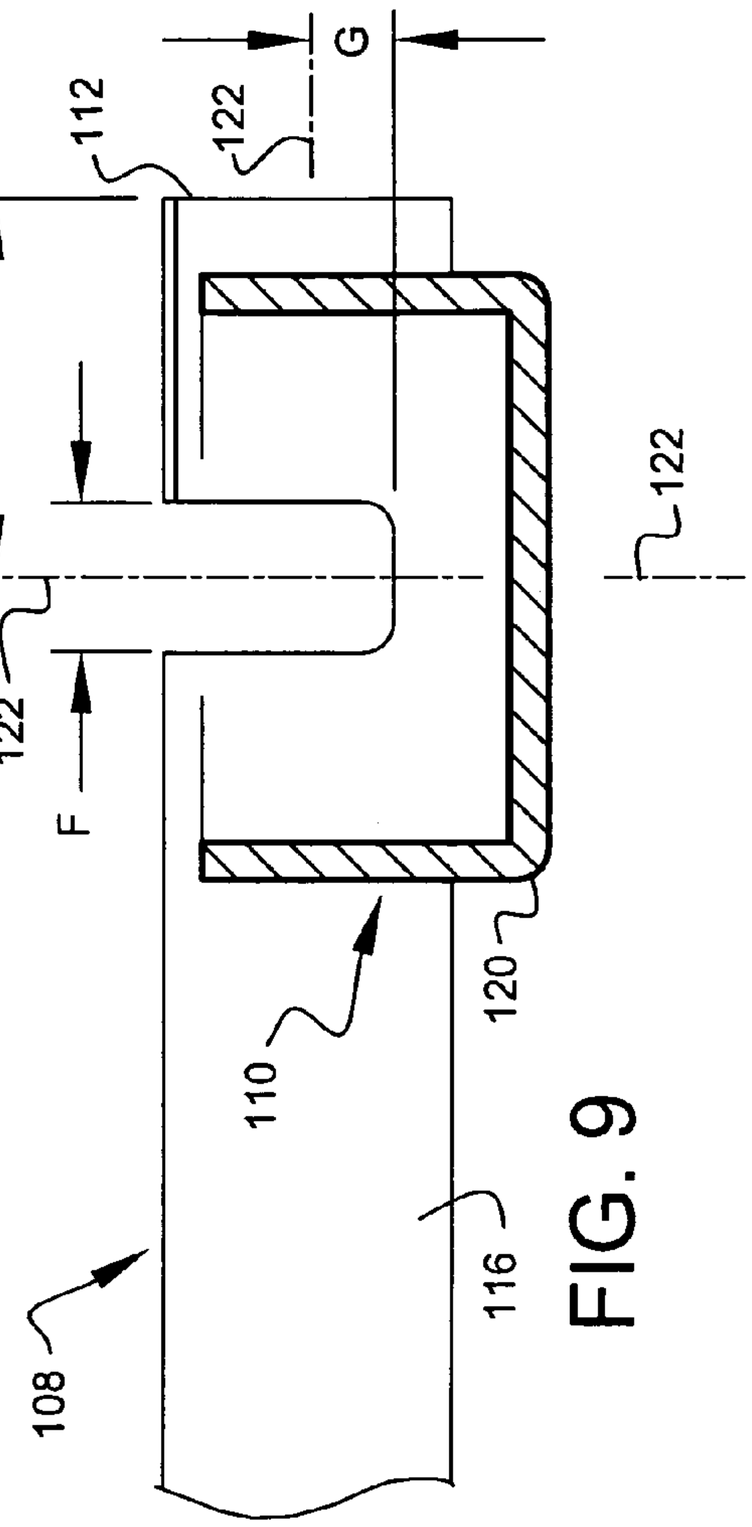


FIG. 9

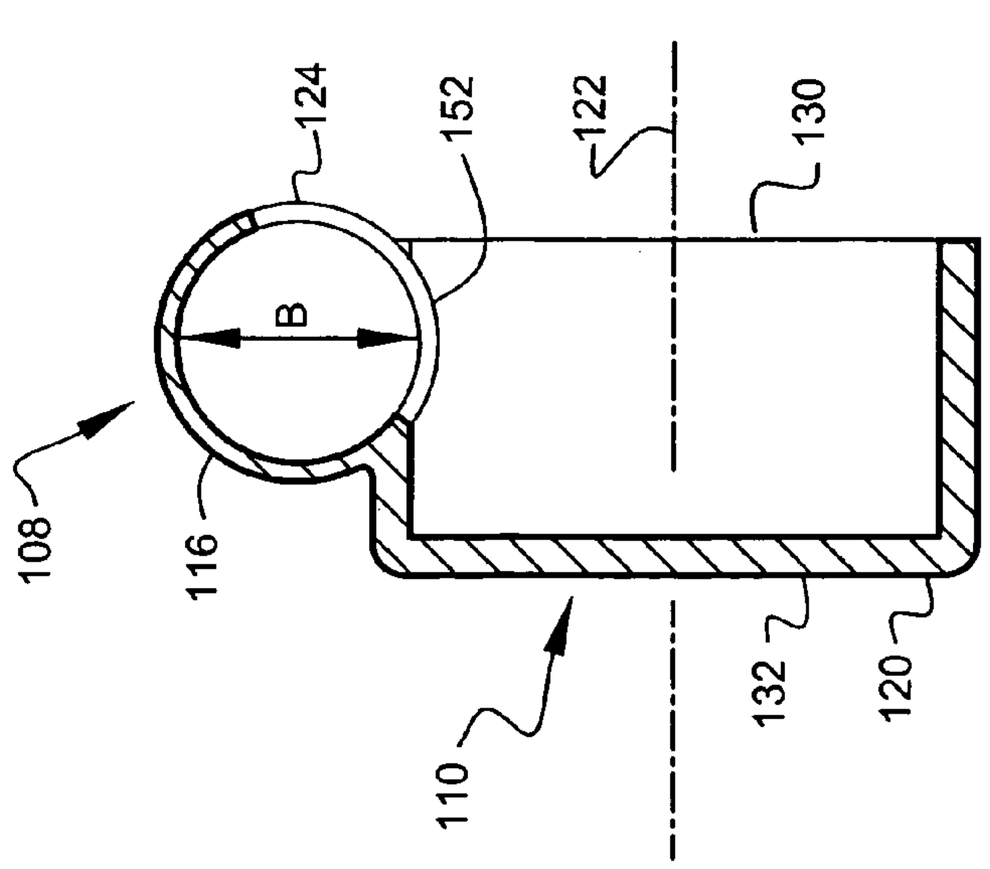


FIG. 8

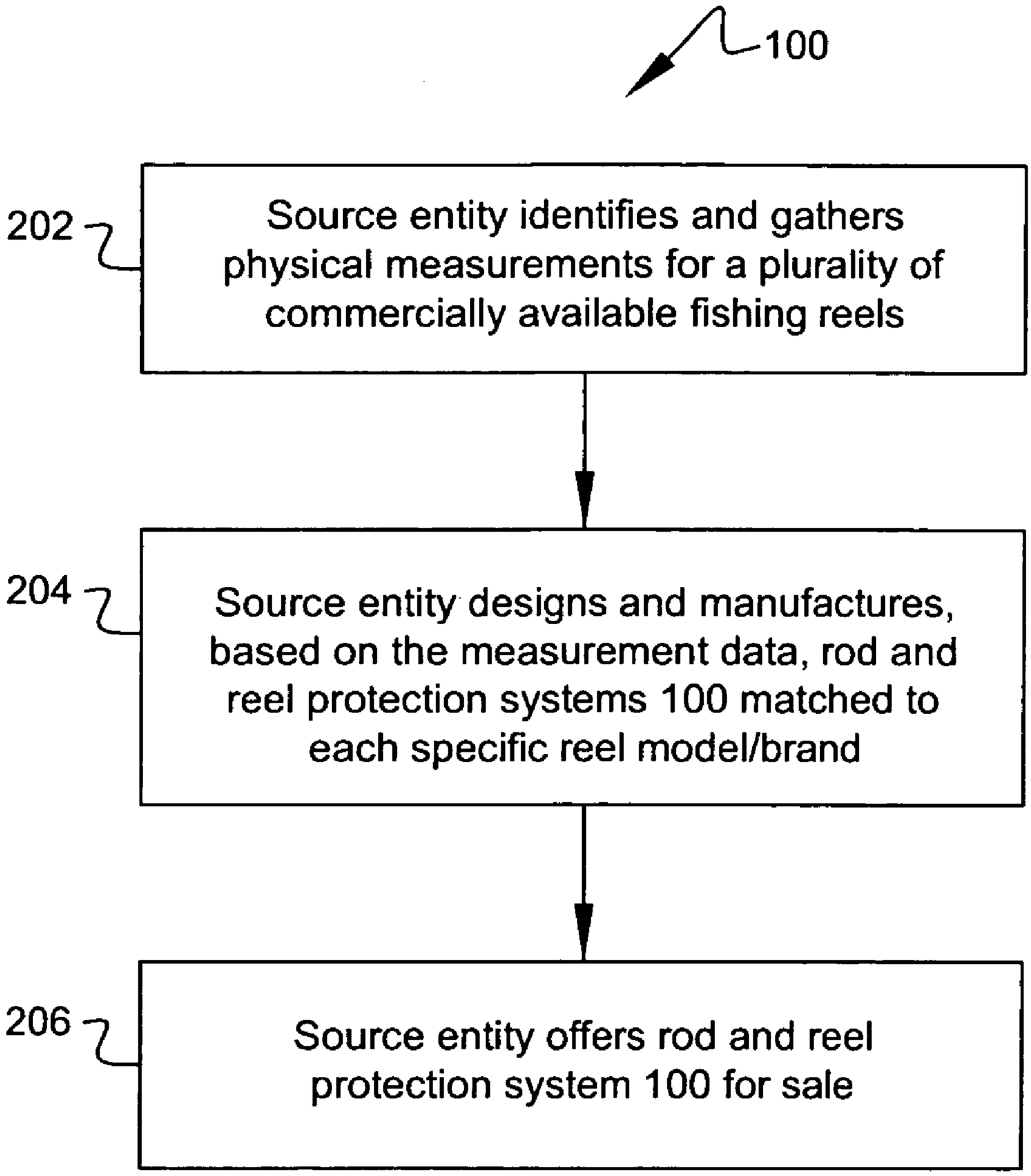

100
202
Source entity identifies and gathers physical measurements for a plurality of commercially available fishing reels
204
Source entity designs and manufactures, based on the measurement data, rod and reel protection systems 100 matched to each specific reel model/brand
206
Source entity offers rod and reel protection system 100 for sale

FIG. 10

FISHING ROD AND REEL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

The present application is related to and claims priority from prior provisional application Ser. No. 60/643,216, filed Jan. 11, 2005, entitled "FISHING ROD AND REEL PROTECTION SYSTEMS", the content of which is incorporated herein by this reference and is not admitted to be prior art with respect to the present invention by the mention in this cross-reference section.

BACKGROUND

This invention relates to providing a system for improved protection of fishing rods and reels.

There are a great variety of fishing rods available and each rod has its own specific rod and reel arrangement. Fly-fishing rods and reels have a unique arrangement as the fly-fishing rod and reel is proportioned differently than other types of fishing rods and reels. On a fly-fishing rod, the mounting for the reel portion is located very near the end of the rod (since a fly-fishing rod is typically gripped only slightly above the reel) between the reel and the rod eyelets. On other commonly used rods, such as spin-casing rods, the reel is mounted about a third of the way up the rod (as the rod is gripped by the handle portion below the reel) typically extending some distance beyond the reel.

Typically, fishing rods must be transported to and from the point of use. During transportation, the rod and reel are susceptible to damage. Designing a system to limit the amount of damage and unnecessary contact of the rod and reel with potentially damaging elements during transport would greatly benefit many fishing sportsmen.

OBJECTS AND FEATURES OF THE INVENTION

A primary object and feature of the present invention is to provide a system to overcome the above-described problems.

It is a further object and feature of the present invention to provide such a system related to the protective housing of at least one fishing rod comprising at least one rod portion and at least one attached reel portion, the at least one attached reel portion comprising at least one spool portion and at least one rod-mountable foot extending from the at least one spool portion. It is a further object and feature of the present invention to provide such a system that separately compartmentalizes the fishing rod and reel. It is another object and feature of the present invention to provide such a system that isolates the fishing reel from the protective housing by contacting essentially only the rod-mounted foot of the reel. It is a further object and feature of the present invention to provide such a system that allows quick installation to, and removal of, the fishing rod and reel from the protective housing. It is yet another object and feature of the present invention to provide such a system adapted to protectively house a fly-fishing rod and reel.

A further primary object and feature of the present invention is to provide such a system that is efficient, inexpensive, and handy. Other objects and features of this invention will become apparent with reference to the following descriptions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with a preferred embodiment hereof, this invention provides a housing system, related to the protective housing of at least one fishing rod having at least one rod portion and at least one attached reel portion, wherein the at least one attached reel portion comprises at least one spool portion and at least one rod-mountable foot extending from the at least one spool portion, such system comprising: encasement means for substantially encasing the at least one fishing rod; wherein such encasement means comprises, first compartment means for compartmentalizing the at least one rod portion, second compartment means, having at least one second opening, for compartmentalizing substantially all of the at least one attached reel portion, passage means having at least one first opening for allowing passage of the at least one rod portion through only such first compartment means to a position of substantial encasement within such first compartment means, and continuous blocker means for continuously blocking the removal of the at least one rod portion from such first compartment means when any portion of the at least one attached reel portion is compartmentalized within such second compartment means.

In accordance with another preferred embodiment hereof, this invention provides a housing system, related to the protective housing of at least one fishing rod having at least one rod portion and at least one attached reel portion, wherein the at least one attached reel portion comprises at least one spool portion and at least one rod-mountable foot extending from the at least one spool portion, such system comprising: at least one encasement to substantially encase the at least one fishing rod; wherein such at least one encasement comprises, at least one first compartment adapted to compartmentalize the at least one rod portion, at least one second compartment, having at least one second opening, adapted to compartmentalize substantially all of the at least one attached reel portion, at least one passage having at least one first opening adapted to allow passage of the at least one rod portion through only such at least one first compartment to a position of substantial encasement within such at least one first compartment, and at least one continuous blocker adapted to continuously block the removal of the at least one rod portion from such at least one first compartment when any portion of the at least one attached reel portion is compartmentalized within such at least one second compartment.

Moreover, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one passage comprises at least one interstitial channel adapted to provide at least one interstitial channel connecting such at least one first compartment with such at least one second compartment. Additionally, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one first opening comprises at least one removable blocker adapted to removably block access to or from such at least one first opening. Also, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one passage comprises at least one guide structured and arranged to guide the at least one reel portion to a position within such at least one second compartment.

In addition, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one encasement comprises at least one support adapted to support such at least one encasement from at least one body-portion of a user. And, it provides such a housing system wherein: such at least one encasement further comprises at least one removable cover adapted to substantially removably cover such at least one second opening. Further, it provides such a housing system wherein: such at least one interstitial channel comprises at least one foot contact adapted to contact essentially only the at least one rod-mountable foot of the at least one attached reel portion; and such at least one foot contact comprises at least one fixed suspender adapted to assist fixed suspension of the at least one spool portion within such at least one second compartment.

Even further, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one encasement further comprises: at least one elongated tubular sleeve comprising, at least one first end, at least one second end, and at least one tubular wall, having at least one first longitudinal axis, wherein such at least one elongated tubular sleeve defines such at least one first compartment; and at least one cylindrical sleeve comprising, at least one cylindrical wall, having at least one second longitudinal axis, wherein such at least one cylindrical sleeve defines such at least one second compartment; wherein such at least one elongated tubular sleeve and such at least one cylindrical sleeve are conjoined; wherein such at least one first end comprises such at least one opening; and wherein both such at least one elongated tubular sleeve and such at least one cylindrical sleeve comprises such at least one interstitial channel. Moreover, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one encasement further comprises at least one substantially rigid material.

Additionally, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one substantially rigid material comprises plastic. Also, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one first longitudinal axis and such at least one second longitudinal axis are essentially perpendicular. In addition, it provides such a housing system wherein: such at least one elongated tubular sleeve comprises an essentially "L"-shaped slot aperture having at least one first slot portion and at least one second slot portion; such at least one first slot portion extends from such at least one first end, essentially parallel with such at least one first longitudinal axis; and such at least one second slot portion extends from such at least one first slot portion, essentially parallel with such at least one second longitudinal axis.

And, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one second slot portion comprises such at least one interstitial channel. Further, it provides such a housing system wherein: such at least one foot contact of such at least one interstitial channel comprises at least one size-matcher adapted to size-match such at least one foot contact to the at least one rod-mountable foot of the at least one attached reel portion. Even further, it provides such a housing system wherein such at least one size-matcher comprises at least one interstitial channel width.

Even further, it provides such a housing system wherein: such at least one first compartment has an interior length of about thirty inches; and such at least one first compartment has an interior diameter of about one-and-one-half inches. Even further, it provides such a housing system wherein: such at least one second compartment has an interior length of about two inches; such at least one second compartment has an interior diameter of about three-and-one-half inches; such at least one interstitial channel is about centered adjacent such at least one second longitudinal axis; and such at least one second longitudinal axis is located about two-and-one-half inches from such at least one first end.

In accordance with another preferred embodiment hereof, this invention provides a method related to the protective housing of at least one fishing rod comprising at least one rod portion and at least one attachable reel portion, the at least one attachable reel portion comprising at least one spool portion and at least one rod mountable foot extending from the at least one spool portion, such method comprising the steps of: identifying a commercially available plurality of the at least one attachable reel portions; assembling measurement data for each at least one rod-mountable foot of such commercially available plurality; designing and manufacturing, based on such measurement data, at least one rod and reel protection system to protectively hold the at least one fishing rod attached to a specific one of such commercially available plurality of the at least one attachable reel portions, such at least one rod and reel protection system comprising, at least one first compartment adapted to compartmentalize the at least one rod portion, at least one second compartment adapted to compartmentalize substantially all of the at least one attachable reel portion, and at least one passage adapted to allow passage of the at least one attachable reel portion, to a position of substantial encasement within such at least one second compartment, wherein such at least one passage comprises at least one selected passage size adapted match each such at least one rod mountable foot of the commercially available plurality of the at least one attachable reel portions, and wherein such at least one selected size assists in isolating the at least one spool portion from essentially all contact with such at least one second compartment; and offering for sale such at least one rod and reel protection system. And it further provides a method comprising the step of offering for sale with such at least one rod and reel protection system at least one fishing rod and fishing reel comprising the at least one rod portion and the at least one attachable reel portion.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment hereof, this invention provides each and every novel feature, element, combination, step and/or method disclosed or suggested by this provisional patent application.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** shows a perspective view of a rod and reel protection system according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **2** shows perspective view of a typical fly-fishing reel and partial perspective view of a fly-fishing rod.

FIG. **3** shows a sectional view, through a longitudinal section of the rod and reel protection system protectively encasing the typical fly-fishing reel and fly-fishing rod of FIG. **2**.

FIG. **4** shows a perspective view of the typical fly-fishing reel and fly-fishing rod of FIG. **2** partially inserted into the rod and reel protection system, according to a preferred step in the method of using the present invention.

FIG. **5** shows a perspective view of the typical fly-fishing reel and fly-fishing rod of FIG. **2** partially inserted into the rod and reel protection system, according to a preferred step in the method of using the present invention.

FIG. **6** shows perspective view of the typical fly-fishing reel and fly-fishing rod of FIG. **5** protectively encased within the rod and reel protection system, according to a preferred step in the method of using the present invention.

FIG. **7** shows a side view of the rod and reel protection system according to the embodiment of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **8** shows a sectional view through the section **8-8** of FIG. **7**.

FIG. **9** shows a sectional view through the section **9-9** of FIG. **7**.

FIG. **10** shows a diagram illustrating a preferred method of designing, manufacturing and selling the rod and reel protection system according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE BEST MODES AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

FIG. **1** shows a perspective view of rod and reel protection system **100** according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Preferably, rod and reel protection system **100** is adapted to protectively encase a fishing rod having an attached reel during transportation. Most preferably, rod and

reel protection system **100** is adapted to protectively encase a fly-fishing rod and fly-fishing reel, as shown. Upon reading the teachings of this specification, those with ordinary skill in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering issues such as, user preference, commercial trends, etc., arrangements to protectively house other fishing rod and reel combinations, such as, for example, spin-casting rods/reels, open faced rods/reels, bait-casting rods/reels, game fishing rods/reels, etc. may suffice.

Preferably, rod and reel protection system **100** comprises; housing **102**, first compartment cover **104**, and second compartment cover **106**, as shown. Preferably, outer housing **102** (at least embodying herein encasement means for substantially encasing the at least one fishing rod with attached reel) is arranged to comprise two essentially separate interior compartments, as shown. Preferably, outer housing **102** comprises first compartment **108** adapted to protectively encase the rod portion of a fly-fishing rod and reel, and second compartment **110** adapted to protectively encase essentially all of the fly-fishing reel portion of the fly-fishing rod and reel (see also FIG. **3** for additional illustrations presenting preferred use of the present invention).

Preferably, first compartment **108** comprises an elongated tubular sleeve consisting of one open end **112**, and one closed end **114**, as shown. Preferably, first compartment **108** is enclosed by outer wall **116**, preferably constructed from at least one protective material. Preferably, exterior wall **116** comprises a lightweight and substantially rigid material with plastic being preferred. Most preferably, exterior wall **116** comprises an impact resistant moldable plastic such as Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene (ABS) or Poly-Vinyl-Chloride (PVC). Upon reading the teachings of this specification, those with ordinary skill in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering issues such as, consumer preference, intended use, etc., other material selections, such as, for example, other plastics including nylon or polyamide, polycarbonate, polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terepthalate glycol (PETG), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene, PTFE, polyurethane or urethane, resin/fabric composites such as carbon fiber, aluminum, wood, etc., may suffice.

Preferably, first compartment **108** comprises first longitudinal axis **118**, as shown. Preferably, first longitudinal axis **118** runs through the center of first compartment **108** preferably defining the primary axis of rotation for exterior wall **116**, as shown.

Preferably, housing **102** further comprises second compartment **110**, as shown. Preferably, second compartment **110** comprises cylindrical wall **120** forming a hollow cylinder for protectively housing the fly-fishing reel portion of the fly-fishing rod and reel, as shown. Preferably, cylindrical wall **120** is generally cup-shaped comprising open side **130** and closed side **132**, as shown. Cylindrical wall **120** is preferably constructed from a similar lightweight and protective material as outer wall **116** with plastic being preferred. Preferably, second compartment **110** comprises second longitudinal axis **122**, as shown. Preferably, second longitudinal axis **122** runs through the center of second compartment **110**, preferably defining the axis of rotation for cylindrical wall **120**, as shown.

Preferably, cylindrical wall **120** of second compartment **110** is permanently joined with outer wall **116** of first compartment **108**, as shown. Most preferably, cylindrical wall **120** and outer wall **116** comprise a single one-piece molding, as shown. Upon reading the teachings of this specification, those with ordinary skill in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering issues such as, cost of materials, material selection, etc., other compartment joining arrangements, such as, permanent bonding of multiple extrusions or moldings, removable attachment using mechanical connectors, flexible attachment using elastic materials, etc., may suffice. Preferably, cylindrical wall **120** is joined with outer wall **116** such that first longitudinal axis **118** is situated essentially perpendicular with second longitudinal axis **122**, as shown.

Additional protection is afforded to second compartment **110** by installing second compartment cover **106**, as shown. Preferably, second compartment cover **106** comprises a substantially flexible cover **128** having an interior pocket-like portion adapted to closely surround cylindrical wall **120**. Preferably, flexible cover **128** comprises elastic structures adapted to assist in maintaining second compartment cover **106** in place and to assist in maintaining the reel within second compartment **110**. Upon reading the teachings of this specification, those with ordinary skill in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering issues such as, intended use, reel design, etc., other protective cover arrangements, such as, for example, rigid covers, zippered covers, swing-away covers, lanyard attachments, etc., may suffice.

Preferably, open end **112** of housing **102** comprises passage **124**, as shown. Preferably, passage **124** extends along outer wall **116** before turning to intersect second compartment **110**. Passage **124** is thus preferably arranged to couple the rod-encasing interior of first compartment **108** with the reel-encasing second compartment **110**, as shown.

Preferably, open end **112** is protectively covered by end cap **104**, as shown (at least embodying herein at least one removable cover adapted to removably cover such at least one passage). Preferably, end cap **104** comprises a removable cover having an interior diameter sized to fit over the outer diameter of outer wall **116**. Preferably, end cap **104** is retained to outer wall **116** by a frictional engagement with outer wall **116**. Preferably, end cap **104** further comprises cap extension **126** adapted to protectively cover passage **124** when installed over open end **112**. Preferably, cap extension **126** is further adapted to assist in securely positioning the reel within second compartment **110**. Additionally, cap extension **126** comprises a preferred shape complementary to passage **124** to provide a smooth essentially seamless appearance to outer wall **116** when coupled together/installed. Preferably, end cap **104** comprises a lightweight and substantially rigid material with plastic being preferred. Most preferably, exterior wall **116** comprises an impact resistant moldable plastic such as acrylic, butyrate (ABS) or poly vinyl chloride (PVC) matching housing **102**.

In addition, housing **102** preferably comprises shoulder strap **134**, as shown. Preferably, shoulder strap **134** allows rod and reel protection system **100** to be conveniently supported by the user during transport. Upon reading the teachings of this specification, those with ordinary skill in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering issues such as, user preference, transporting requirements, etc., other user support arrangements, such as, for example, handles, belt clips, hook and loop fasteners, etc., may suffice.

FIG. **2** shows perspective view of a typical fly-fishing reel **136** and partial perspective view of a fly-fishing rod **138**. The typical fly-fishing reel **136** shown in the Figures herein comprises a spool **140** mounted on a spool carrier **142**, as shown. Mounting foot **144** extends from spool carrier **142** to allow fly-fishing reel **136** to be mountable to fly-fishing rod **138**, as shown.

Clamping fly-fishing reel **136** to fly-fishing rod **138** is accomplished using a stationary clamping sleeve **146**

mounted near the end of fly-fishing rod **138**, and having a slot into which one end of mounting foot **144** slips, and slidable clamping sleeve **148** with a slot into which the other end of mounting foot **144** slips. Slidable clamping sleeve **148** is guided towards the stationary sleeve by rotating threaded nut **150** and mating (engaging) threaded portion of fly-fishing rod **138**, as shown. Thus, mounting foot **144** of fly-fishing reel **136** is clamped and held stationary within and between stationary clamping sleeve **146** and slidable clamping sleeve **148** of fly-fishing reel **136**, as shown. This customary means of clamping fly-fishing reel **136** to fly-fishing rod **138** results in a portion of mounting foot **144**, located between fly-fishing rod **138** and fly-fishing reel **136**, to remain accessibly exposed.

FIG. **3** shows a sectional view, through a longitudinal section of rod and reel protection system **100** protectively encasing fly-fishing reel **136** and fly-fishing rod **138** of FIG. **2**. Preferably, passage **124** comprises interstitial channel **152** joining first compartment **108** with second compartment **110**, as shown (at least embodying herein wherein such at least one passage comprises at least one interstitial channel adapted to provide at least one interstitial channel connecting such at least one first compartment with such at least one second compartment). Preferably, interstitial channel **152** is structured and arranged to closely fit about mounting foot **144** of fly-fishing reel **136**, as shown. The preferred width of interstitial channel **152** is matched to the width of mounting foot **144** to allow fly-fishing reel **136** to be easily installed/removed from second compartment **110** while effectively restraining potentially damaging movement of fly-fishing reel **136** during transport (this arrangement at least embodies herein at least one size matcher adapted to size match such at least one foot contact to the at least one rod mountable foot of the at least one attached reel portion). Preferably, the physical size and shape of interstitial channel **152** is matched with the physical size and shape of mounting foot **144**, as shown, to provide steady positioning of fly-fishing reel **136** within housing **102**, such that only mounting foot **144** contacts housing **102**, as shown. Preferably, fly-fishing reel **136** is isolated from contact with housing **102** (this arrangement at least embodies herein wherein such at least one interstitial channel comprises at least one foot contact adapted to contact essentially only the at least one rod-mountable foot of the at least one attached reel portion). This unique and preferred suspension or "floating" arrangement of fly-fishing reel **136** within housing **102** significantly improves protection of the reel during transport (at least embodying herein wherein such at least one foot contact comprises at least one fixed suspender adapted to assist fixed suspension of the at least one spool portion within such at least one second compartment).

For convenience, most fly-fishing-fishing rods are designed to break into smaller, manageable segments, as shown. Preferably, the interior diameter and length of first compartment **108** is adapted allow storage of fly-fishing rod **138** when broken down into segments, as shown. Upon reading the teachings of this specification, those of ordinary skill in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering such issues as user preference, intended use, etc., other housing configurations, such as, housing compartments adapted to receive a full-length (un-segmented) rod, multiple compartments to compartmentalize individual rod segments, etc., may suffice.

Preferably, fixed end cover **154**, comprises an interior diameter sized to fit over the outer diameter of outer wall **116**, and is permanently bonded to closed end **114** of first compartment **108**, as shown. Preferably, fixed end cover **154** comprises a lightweight and substantially rigid material. Most preferably, exterior wall **116** comprises a material matching outer wall **116**, with impact resistant moldable plastic being most preferred. Upon reading the teachings of this specification, those of ordinary skill in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering such issues as preferred molding methods, intended use, etc., other end closure arrangements, such as, integrally molded closures, removable closures, closures comprising addition storage compartments, etc., may suffice.

FIG. **4** shows a perspective view of fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** partially inserted into rod and reel protection system **100**, according to a preferred step in the method of using the present invention. Advantages of rod and reel protection system **100** are clearly illustrated by describing the system during use. Preferred arrangements of rod and reel protection system **100** allow fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** to be quickly and conveniently installed within, and removed from, housing **102**, as illustration in the following Figures.

Preferably, fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** are protectively positioned within housing **102** by initially inserting the end of fly-fishing rod **138** (opposite fly-fishing reel **136**) by passing the end of fly-fishing rod **138** into open end **112** of first compartment **108**, as shown. Preferably, as fly-fishing rod **138** moves into first compartment **108** mounting foot **144** (of fly-fishing reel **136**) is positioned to generally align with passage **124** (of outer wall **116**), as shown.

FIG. **5** shows a perspective view of fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** partially inserted into rod and reel protection system **100**, according to a subsequent preferred step in the method of using the present invention. Preferably, fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** are advanced forward into housing **102** with fly-fishing rod **138** moving further into first compartment **108** and fly-fishing reel **136** approaching second compartment **110**, guided by mounting foot **144** moving along passage **124**, as shown (at least embodying herein wherein such at least one passage comprises at least one guide structured and arranged to guide the at least one reel portion to a position within such at least one second compartment). As mounting foot **144** moves to a stopped position adjacent second compartment **110**, passage **124** transitions from a slot having a linear orientation essentially parallel with first longitudinal axis **118** to a slot comprising interstitial channel **152** having a linear orientation following the outer diameter of exterior wall **116** and substantially parallel with second longitudinal axis **122**, as shown. Preferably, fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** are rotated to place fly-fishing reel **136** within second compartment **110**, as shown.

FIG. **6** shows perspective view of fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** protectively encased within rod and reel protection system **100**, according to a preferred method of using the present invention. Preferably, in such protected position (of FIG. **6**), fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** are essentially ready for transport. It should be noted that fly-fishing rod **138** passes only through first compartment **108** during installation. Preferably, the user places the remaining segments of fly-fishing rod **138** within first compartment **108** and secures end cap **104** over open end **112** (see FIG. **3**). User may also install second compartment cover **106** over second compartment **110** to provide yet further protection to fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** during transport.

Following the above-described steps in reverse removes fly-fishing rod **138** and attached fly-fishing reel **136** from housing **102**. It should be noted that that users of rod and reel

protection system **100** will generally be able to perform the above-described installation and removal steps in a matter of seconds rather than minutes. It is also significant to note that even without the installation of end cap **104** and second compartment cover **106**, attached fly-fishing reel **136** is essentially "locked" within housing **102** as long as any portion of fly-fishing reel **136** is contained within second compartment **110**, as shown (this arrangement at least embodies herein continuous blocker means for continuously blocking the removal of the at least one rod portion from such first compartment means when any portion of the at least one attached reel portion is compartmentalized within such second compartment means).

FIG. **7** shows a side view of the rod and reel protection system **100** according to the embodiment of FIG. **1**. FIG. **8** shows a sectional view through the section **8-9** of FIG. **7**. FIG. **9** shows a sectional view through the section **9-9** of FIG. **7**. Referring to FIG. **7**, FIG. **8**, and FIG. **9**, preferred embodiments of rod and reel protection system **100** are generically sized to accommodate the physical storage requirements of a plurality of commercially available fishing rods and reels. In addition, alternate preferred embodiments of rod and reel protection system **100** are adapted to house a specific rod and reel combination (or group of similarly dimensioned combination rod and reels). Moreover, preferred embodiments of rod and reel protection system **100** are preferably supplied in the form of a packaged rod and/or reel kit. It should be noted that the dimensions of FIG. **7**, FIG. **8**, and FIG. **9** are representative of only one preferred illustrative embodiment and that other embodiments comprising other preferred dimensions are within the scope of the present invention.

Preferably, first compartment **108** of housing **102** comprises an overall length "A" of about 30 inches and an interior diameter "B" of about 1½ inches. Preferably, second compartment **110** comprises an inner diameter "C" of about 3½ inches and an interior depth "D" of about 2 inches. Preferably, passage **124** (extending from open end **112** essentially parallel with first longitudinal axis **118**) comprises a slot width "E" of about one half inch. Passage **124** preferably turns to essentially align with second longitudinal axis **122** and form interstitial channel **152** having a slot width "F" of about 1-inch. Preferably, interstitial channel **152** is approximately centered on second longitudinal axis **122**, as shown.

Thus it is illustrated that passage **124** preferably comprises an essentially "L"-shaped slot aperture having at least one first slot portion and at least one second slot portion (interstitial channel **152**); such at least one first slot portion extending from a first end (open end **112**) of first compartment **108** essentially parallel with such at least first longitudinal axis (first longitudinal axis **118**); and such at least one second slot portion (interstitial channel **152**) extending from such at least one first slot portion essentially parallel with such at least one second longitudinal axis (second longitudinal axis **122**).

Preferably, interstitial channel **152** extends past first longitudinal axis **118** a distance "G" of about 9/16 inch. Preferably, the linear distance "H" as measured between longitudinal axis **122** and open end **112** is about 2½ inches.

FIG. **10** shows a diagram illustrating a preferred method of designing, manufacturing and selling rod and reel protection system **100** according to the present invention. As previously discussed, housing **102** of rod and reel protection system **100** is adapted to closely engage mounting foot **144** of fly-fishing reel **136**. Many popular reels comprise unique dimensional characteristics and thus require specific housing arrangements within the present invention. The development of reel and rod specific embodiments is accomplished by means of the following preferred method of the present invention.

First, a source entity identifies a plurality of commercially available fishing reels as illustrated in step **202**. Preferably, the source entity gathers physical measurement data on available reel models from a variety of target manufactures. In some cases, the source entity may receive physical data directly from manufacturers, for example, after entering into an agreement with a reel manufacturer to supply rod and reel protection systems for OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) branding and distribution.

Preferably, after the source entity has assembled measurement data for each target reel, the source entity designs and manufactures, based on the measurement data, rod and reel protection systems **100** matched to each specific reel model/brand as indicated in step **204**. Preferably, the step **204** comprises such actions as; contracting with one or more manufacturers capable of producing the specific rod and reel protection systems **100**, providing design specifications generated from the gathered measurement data, providing product shipping data allowing the manufacturer to distribute finished product to retail sites, etc.

Finally, source entity offers rod and reel protection system **100** for sale as indicated in step **206**. Preferably, reel protection system **100** is offered for sale independently of the reel to be contained. Alternately, as preferred aspect of the sale step **206** as embodied herein, reel protection system **100** may be sold in combination with fly-fishing rod **138** and/or fly-fishing reel **136**.

Although applicant has described applicant's preferred embodiments of this invention, it will be understood that the broadest scope of this invention includes such modifications as diverse shapes and sizes and materials. Such scope is limited only by the below claims as read in connection with the above specification.

Further, many other advantages of applicant's invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the above descriptions and the below claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A housing system, related to the protective housing of at least one fishing rod having at least one rod portion and at least one attached reel portion, wherein the at least one attached reel portion comprises at least one spool portion and at least one rod-mountable foot extending from the at least one spool portion, said system comprising:

a) at least one encasement to substantially encase the at least one fishing rod;

b) wherein said at least one encasement comprises

i) at least one first compartment adapted to compartmentalize the at least one rod portion,

ii) at least one second compartment, having at least one second opening, adapted to compartmentalize substantially all of the at least one attached reel portion,

iii) at least one passage having at least one first opening adapted to allow passage of the at least one rod portion through only said at least one first compartment to a position of substantial encasement within said at least one first compartment, and

iv) at least one continuous blocker adapted to continuously block the removal of the at least one rod portion from said at least one first compartment when at least one portion of the at least one attached reel portion is compartmentalized within said at least one second compartment;

v) wherein said at least one passage comprises at least one interstitial channel connecting said at least one first compartment with said at least one second compartment;

vi) wherein said at least one interstitial channel comprises at least one foot contact adapted to contact essentially only the at least one rod-mountable foot of the at least one attached reel portion;

vii) wherein said at least one foot contact comprises at least one fixed suspender adapted to assist fixed suspension of the at least one spool portion within said at least one second compartment;

viii) wherein said at least one encasement further comprises

(1) at least one elongated tubular sleeve comprising,

(2) at least one first end,

(3) at least one second end, and

(4) at least one tubular wall, having at least one first longitudinal axis,

(5) wherein said at least one elongated tubular sleeve defines said at least one first compartment; and

(6) at least one cylindrical sleeve comprising

(a) at least one cylindrical wall, having at least one second longitudinal axis,

(b) wherein said at least one cylindrical sleeve defines said at least one second compartment;

(7) wherein said at least one elongated tubular sleeve and said at least one cylindrical sleeve are conjoined;

(8) wherein said at least one first end comprises said at least one opening;

(9) wherein both said at least one elongated tubular sleeve and said at least one cylindrical sleeve comprise said at least one interstitial channel;

(10) wherein said at least one elongated tubular sleeve comprises an essentially L-shaped slot aperture having at least one first slot portion and at least one second slot portion;

(11) wherein said at least one first slot portion extends from said at least one first end, essentially parallel with said at least one first longitudinal axis;

(12) wherein said at least one second slot portion extends from said at least one first slot portion, essentially parallel with said at least one second longitudinal axis;

(13) wherein said at least one second slot portion comprises said at least one interstitial channel;

ix) wherein said at least one foot contact of said at least one interstitial channel comprises at least one size-matcher adapted to size-match said at least one foot contact to the at least one rod-mountable foot of the at least one attached reel portion.

2. The housing system according to claim **1** wherein said at least one size-matcher comprises at least one interstitial channel width.

3. The housing system according to claim **1** wherein:

a) said at least one first compartment has an interior length of about thirty inches; and

b) said at least one first compartment has an interior diameter of about one-and-one-half inches.

4. The housing system according to claim **1** wherein:

a) said at least one second compartment has an interior length of about two inches;

b) said at least one second compartment has an interior diameter of about three-and-one-half inches;

c) said at least one interstitial channel is about centered adjacent said at least one second longitudinal axis; and

d) said at least one second longitudinal axis is located about two-and-one-half inches from said at least one first end.

5. The housing system according to claim **1** wherein said at least one passage comprises at least one guide structured and arranged to guide the at least one reel portion to a position within said at least one second compartment.

6. The housing system according to claim **1** wherein said at least one encasement comprises at least one support adapted to support said at least one encasement from at least one body-portion of a user.

7. The housing system according to claim **1** wherein:

a) said at least one encasement further comprises at least one removable cover adapted to removably cover said at least one second opening.

8. The housing system according to claim **1** wherein said at least one encasement further comprises at least one substantially rigid material.

9. The housing system according to claim **8** wherein said at least one substantially rigid material comprises at least one plastic.

10. The housing system according to claim **1** wherein said at least one first longitudinal axis and said at least one second longitudinal axis are essentially perpendicular.

* * * * *